

Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District in 1932. Ten years later, inspired by the tragic Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, she traveled some 60 miles by trolley car from Allentown to Philadelphia to join an Army reserve unit affiliated with the Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1943, she shipped out to Asia, where she served at the 20th Field Hospital, tending to wounded soldiers in India.

As an Army nurse, BG Hays' compassion for others was unparalleled. Furthermore, she was resolute in her mission to provide the highest level of care to our nation's troops, even battling severe illnesses and hardships of her own to do so. Following WWII, she again served hundreds of wounded soldiers at the 4th Field Hospital in Inchon and the Tokyo Army Hospital during the Korean War.

After the wars, her compassion did not waver as she continued to serve in military hospitals. This included a stint at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where two of her patients included General George C. Marshall and President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

When war broke out in Vietnam, BG Hays again answered the call of duty. She worked in the Army Nurse Corps and rose to the rank of chief, visiting Vietnam on many occasions to inspect medical installations.

On June 11, 1970, BG Hays was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General after being nominated by President Nixon, becoming the first woman to ever receive this distinction. Additionally, she was also awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the highest noncombat award issued by the Pentagon.

Brigadier General Anna Mae Hays will always be remembered for her kindness and service towards others and her love of her childhood home in the Lehigh Valley. Even at 90 years old, Anna consistently drove back to Allentown to visit loved ones and donate historical items to local museums.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to please join me in recognizing the life of this remarkable woman and her monumental accomplishments. Her commitment to our armed service members and to our country will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2017 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2017 recipients of the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Presented annually, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The Medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from diverse ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage and culture. We honor these outstanding individuals because the important work they do today creates a better world for all of us tomorrow. This momentous occasion was celebrated with a patriotic ceremony on Ellis Island and a recommitment by the leaders of the organization to their mission of honoring diver-

sity, fostering tolerance and promoting religious and racial unity across America.

Since the Medals' founding, more than 2,500 American citizens have received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, including seven American Presidents, numerous United States Senators and Congressmen, two Nobel Laureates, and many athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders. This Medal is not about material success, nor is it about the politics of immigration; it is about the people who have committed themselves to this nation, embraced the opportunities America offers, and most importantly, who have used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in our country and in the lives of its people.

Citizens of the United States hail from every nation known to man. The iconic metaphor of this nation as a veritable melting pot of cultures continues to ring true, and it is this diversity that adds to the unique richness of American life. It is the key to why America is the most innovative, progressive and forward thinking country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and democracy that enabled our forbearers to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life. This award serves to remind us all that with hard work and perseverance anyone can still achieve the American dream. In addition, by honoring these remarkable Americans, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they have made to America. I commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as to promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO and in congratulating all of the 2017 recipients of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

2017 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Ken Aagaard, David B. Agus, MD, The Honorable Dr. Buzz Aldrin, Hormoz Ameri, Loreen Arbus, Dr. Abbas Ardehali, Nadim C. Ashi, Lieutenant General Ronald L. Bailey, Sook Ja Bang, Herb Baum, Ruth Bedevian, Kurken Yetvart Berksanlar, Mollie Ann Bracigliano, Susan Burchard, Thomas L. Cantone, Robert E. Carlucci, LTC Daniel L. Cederman, Heather Won Choi, Winn Claybaugh, Konstantine Costalas, Peter Cuneo, Robert Currie, BS, MA, PhD (Hon.), FSA Scot, Captain Michael H. Day, Ronald A. DePinho, MD, Joseph D'Urso, Suzanne El Sayegh, MD, FACP, FASN.

Dr. Hossein Eslambolchi, Mohammad Farzaneh, Commander Jonathan A. Forsberg, MD, PhD, Michael Greco, Mindy Grossman, Emile K. Haddad, Adil H. Haider, MD, MPH, FACS, Lieutenant General Stayce D. Harris, Patricia de Stacy Harrison, Lucine Mardirosian Harvey, Yumi Hogan, Rachel S. Howitt, Ming Hsieh, Soo-Il Jung, Governor John Kasich, Mumtaz A. Kazim, MD, Thomas A. Keller, Victoria Reggie Kennedy, ESQ, Alsun Keogh, R. Gil Kerlikowske.

Olga Kern, Annapoorna S. Kini, MD, Murat N. Koprulu, Sven Kraemer, Honorable Darin M. LaHood, Sherry Lansing, Noel Lateef, Andy Andranik, Madadian, Bill McMorrow, Frank Melkonian, George Fouad Mobassaleh, Sebastian Paul Musco, Francois Nader, MD, MBA, Daniel A. Nigro, Indra K. Nooyi, Jeffrey S. Olson, Eleni Paliros-Bousis, Dinesh Paliwal.

Harris Pastides, PhD, Mohan H. Patel, Yashvant Patel, Joan Agajanian Quinn, Honorable Azita Raji, Brigadier General Austin E. Renforth, Commanding General, Marine Corp, Dame Tadia Rice, Ihor S. Sawczuk, MD, FACS, Richard C. Shadyac, Jr., Major General Larry W. Shellito USN (Ret.), EdD, James P. Sherlock, Anne Shih, Assistant Chief Theresa J. Shorten, Maggie Soleimani, Esq., Admiral James Stavridis, USN (Ret.), Carol Gomez Summerhays, DDS, Mary-Christine (M.C.) Sungaila, Esq., Ara Tekian, PRD, MHPE, Dr. Sean Shaheen Tedjarati.

Garo M. Terzakian, MD, Rear Admiral Cynthia M. Thebaud, USN (Ret.), Alvin S. Trenk, Veronica Tsang, Cumrun Vafa, Brigadier General Suzanne P. Vares-Lum, USA, Charlie Woo, Chun B. (Charlie) Yim, D.B.A., Ma Cheol Yim, Dr. Fareed Zakaria.

INTERNATIONAL ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Emmanuelle Charpentier, PhD, Amir A. Dossal, FCA, Hamdi Ulukaya.

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

Malala Yousafzai.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIERRA SACRAMENTO VALLEY MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society (SSVMS) as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. As the members of SSVMS gather today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Society's long history of service to the Sacramento region and beyond.

The Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society, originally known as the Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement, has been in continuous operation since the 1860s. It was founded by physicians from different areas of expertise dedicated to providing quality medical care for our community. Throughout its history, the Society has benefited from the leadership of dedicated public servants such as council members, a mayor, senators, and presidents of the American Medical Association, to name just a few of the preeminent individuals who have played a role in the Society's growth and development.

As the oldest medical society in California, SSVMS is a vital part of our region's history. The Society helps understand and fight disease, promotes community education, advocates for local physicians, and supports the principles of the medical profession. The Society is committed to increasing access to health-care services and providing scholarships to medical students. In 1947 it founded the Sacramento Medical Foundation, which so many of us in Sacramento now known as BloodSource. And its Joy of Medicine program seeks to relieve physician pain and help to reclaim the joy of practicing medicine through education, advocacy, and program services designed to nurture individual well-being and collegiality.

Mr. Speaker, as those who value the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society's many contributions celebrate its 150 years of invaluable service to Sacramento, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this prestigious